

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 01214 182047Z
ACTION A-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 NSC-06 NSCE-00 SSO-00
CCO-00 /024 W

-----182059 100331 /63

O R 182017Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0777

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OREP (CODEL SLACK)

SUBJECT: CODEL SLACK PRESS CONFERENCE

1. BEFORE DEPARTING, CODEL SLACK HELD PRESS CONFERENCE FOR PANAMANIAN AND US CORRESPONDENTS AT AIRPORT. WHILE SOME MEMBERS OF CODEL EXPRESSED MODERATE, REASONED VIEWS ON CANAL ISSUES (I.E. SLACK, BURKE AND METCALFE), OTHERS DID NOT.

2. CONG. SMITH SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW PANAMA DOES NOT WANT TO CONCLUDE A TREATY AND WILL CONTINUE TO REJECT REASONABLE US PROPOSALS. THE US, HE SAID, IS NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH, BUT PANAMA DOES NOT WANT TO DEAL WITH US. CONG. DORNAN REMARKED ON THE DIFFICULTIES DEMOCRACIES HAVE IN NEGOTIATING WITH "DICTATORSHIPS" WHERE "ONLY ONE MAN DECIDES". HE SAID THAT PANAMA APPARENTLY DOES NOT REALIZE THAT THE US CONGRESS IS INVOLVED IN THE CANAL TREATY AND ADDED THAT IT WAS "SAD THAT NEITHER GENERAL TORRIJOS NOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAW FIT TO MEET WITH SUCH AN IMPORTANT DELEGATION". CONG. STUMP SAID THAT THE AMERICAN PUBLIC DOES NOT REALIZE WHAT THE TERMS OF THE CANAL TREATY ARE, THAT RATHER THAN PARTNERSHIP, THE US WILL BE LEAVING THE CANAL ZONE AND THE CANAL IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

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3. CHAIRMAN SLACK ASSURED PRESS THAT MEMBERS' STATEMENTS WERE NOT THE COLLECTIVE OPINION OF CODEL, BUT INDIVIDUAL VIEWS. HE TOLD CBS REPORTER AFTER THE CONFERENCE THAT HE SAW NOTHING TO INDICATE THAT PANAMA WAS NOT NEGOTIATING IN GOOD FAITH. CONG. METCALFE STATED THAT IN HIS VIEW CODEL VISIT HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL AND HE HOPED FOR A TREATY THAT WILL PROTECT THE INTERESTS

OF BOTH SIDES AND "ADD DIGNITY TO THE PEOPLE OF PANAMA".

4. USIS IS FORWARDING A TRANSCRIPT OF THE CONFERENCE TO MEXICO
AND THE DEPARTMENT.

JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA01214
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0245
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770227/aaaaaxtf.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3281198
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL SLACK PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, PN, (SLACK, JOHN M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a997cc4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009